

Message Text

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51

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 CPR-01

PRS-01 /032 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT PROVIDED BY WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY S/S:MR. ORTIZ

NEA:ALATHERTON

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NEA/AFN:MW WILEY

NEA/AFN:DLMACK

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O 011631Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, TS

SUBJECT: NOUIRA VISIT: PROPOSED WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT

1. WHITE HOUSE PROPOSES TO MAKE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT
AT REGULAR NOON PRESS BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9: "HIS
EXCELLENCY HEDI NOUIRA, PRIME MINISTER OF TUNISIA, HAS
ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET
WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 1. THE PRESIDENT WILL HOST A
WORKING DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN HONOR OF THE PRIME
MINISTER ON THE EVENING OF MAY 1. DURING HIS VISIT,
PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA WILL MEET WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS
OF THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS WITH MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT REFLECTS THE
TRADITIONALLY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH EXIST
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TUNISIA."

2. IF ASKED ABOUT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT, YOU CAN
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EXPLAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT IS IN CALIFORNIA AND IS

EXPECTED BACK IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 8. THUS, NEXT
REGULAR BRIEFING ON APRIL 9.

3. PLEASE DETERMINE IF TEXT AND TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT
ARE AGREEABLE TO GOT. ALSO REPORT TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT GOT INTENDS TO MAKE, PRESUMABLY SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH

OURS.

4. ANTICIPATE THAT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN (NESSEN) MAY BE
ASKED WHY NOUIRA COMING INSTEAD OF BOURGUIBA AND WHETHER
BOURGUIBA HAD PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION. WE PROPOSE
FOLLOWING REPLY IN Q AND A SESSION: "PRESIDENT FORD
RENEWED THE INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO VISIT
WASHINGTON IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSWHICH
PREVAIL BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT WAS MUTUALLY
AGREED THAT PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA WOULD VISIT AT THIS
TIME IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP". WOULD PROPOSE
NESSEN REFER ALL QUESTIONS INVOLVING BOURGUIBA TO
TUNISIANS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DETERMINING WHETHER THIS APPROACH
AGREEABLE TO TUNISIANS (IT AVOIDS HEALTH PROBLEM) OR
WHETHER THEY WISH US TO BE MORE EXPLICIT. KISSINGER

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